Central University for KBK Region

*366. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during a meeting with him the Chief Minister of Orissa has made a proposal for setting up a Central University for the KBK region (undivided Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput Districts) of Orissa;

(b) whether Government are aware that a Central University, in this most backward tribal dominated region, would go a long way in encouraging higher education among the tribals where the literacy rate is below 50 per cent;

(c) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(d) the time-frame within which a Central University would be set up in that region?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) While the meeting referred to in the question did take place recently, no formal proposal for setting up a Central University for the KBK region has been received from the State Government of Orissa. A Central University is established, *inter-alia*, to correct regional imbalances or to cover large gaps in the higher educational map of the country. There are 11 recognised Universities (including two institutions Deemed to be Universities) in the State of Orissa. According to the available information, the Berhampur University and the Sambalapur University have jurisdication over the districts comprising the KBK region in Orissa. These two Universities together have affiliated 102 colleges located in the region. While there have been demands from various States, either for setting up of new Central Universities or for conversion of the existing State Universities into Central Universities, the present policy of the Government is to lay emphasis on consolidation and expansion of facilities in the existing Universities. In view of this, no proposal to set up a Central University for the KBK region is presently under consideration of the Government.